

FILED

Dec 26, 2013

**9TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN**

STATE OF MICHIGAN

9TH CIRCUIT COURT-TRIAL DIVISION

THE PEOPLE OF THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

v

File No. 2011-1983 FC

SAMUEL STEEL, III,
Defendant.

Jury Trial - Volume VII of VII
Before Honorable Pamela L. Lightvoet P47677, Circuit Judge
Kalamazoo, Michigan - Friday, September 6, 2013

APPEARANCES:

For the People: Paul John Cusick P70895
Assistant Attorney General
Michigan Department of Attorney General
Criminal Division
3030 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 10-361
Detroit, Michigan 48202
(313) 456-0089

For the Defendant: Robert A. Champion P52726
124 East Bridge Street, Suite C
Plainwell, Michigan 49080
(269) 685-9220

Recorded by: Digitally recorded

Transcribed by: Brenda K. Foley CER 4956
Foley Transcription Service
8165 Valleywood Lane
Portage, Michigan 49024
(269) 303-9680

* * * * *

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Verdict	1455
WITNESSES	
None	
EXHIBITS	
None	

1 Kalamazoo, Michigan

2 Friday, September 6, 2013 - 1:51 p.m.

3 THE CLERK: The court calls the matter of People of
4 the State of Michigan versus Samuel Steel, III, case number
5 C11-1983 FC.

6 Parties, please state appearances for the record.

7 MR. CUSICK: Good afternoon, your Honor.

8 Paul Cusick, Assistant Attorney General.

9 MR. CHAMPION: May it please the Court,
10 Robert Champion appearing on behalf of Samuel Steel.

11 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon.

12 It's our understanding that the jury has reached a
13 verdict. Before they come in, I'll just let everyone know no
14 expressions. No matter what the verdict is, I don't want to
15 hear any comments or loud outbursts. If anyone does that, I'm
16 going to ask the deputies to escort you down to holding and we
17 can address you later.

18 So please be patient with the process. We generally
19 have some things that we need to address after we excuse the
20 jury, so I've asked the deputies not to let anyone leave once
21 the jury comes in, just so that you're aware of that. So
22 you'll just have to sit tight. And, if you want to make
23 comments and what no [sic]-whatnot, just please wait until you
24 leave the court building, so just so that you are all aware of
25 that.

1 All right. The jury is here.

2 All rise.

3 (At 1:52 p.m., jury enters courtroom)

4 You may be seated.

5 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

6 It is our understanding that you have reached a
7 verdict. Would the foreperson please stand.

8 And, sir, is that accurate? Have you reached a
9 verdict?

10 THE FOREPERSON: Yes, we have, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. So we're going to take the
12 verdict, which means that we're going to be asking you
13 questions off of the verdict form. And I will indicate to you
14 and everyone else that, as we go through this process, there
15 will be occasions when we're talking and you're talking to us.
16 Please make sure you speak up. We are recording your answers,
17 so just a reminder about that.

18 So Ms. Johnson is going to go through each count
19 with you. I'll turn it over to her.

20 THE CLERK: Thank you.

21 Mr. Foreperson, in seat number seven, as to count
22 one, open murder, what is your verdict?

23 THE FOREPERSON: We found the defendant guilty of
24 first-degree murder.

25 THE CLERK: Thank you.

1 As to count two, weapons felony firearm relating to
2 count one, what is your verdict?

3 THE FOREPERSON: Guilty of weapons.

4 THE CLERK: Thank you.

5 As to count three, weapons firearm possession by
6 felon, what is your verdict?

7 THE FOREPERSON: Guilty of weapons.

8 THE CLERK: Thank you.

9 And, as to count four, weapons felony firearm
10 related to count three, what is your verdict?

11 THE FOREPERSON: Guilty of weapons.

12 THE CLERK: Thank you.

13 Mr. Foreperson, you may be seated.

14 Members of the jury and Mr. Foreperson, please
15 listen to your verdict as recorded.

16 As to count one, guilty of first-degree murder.

17 As to count two, guilty of weapons felony firearm.

18 As to count three, weapons—I'm sorry.—guilty of
19 weapons firearm possession by felon.

20 As to count four, guilty of weapons felony firearm.

21 Mr. Foreperson, is this your verdict?

22 THE COURT: Is this your verdict, sir? Yes?

23 THE FOREPERSON: Correct.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 THE CLERK: And, members of the jury, is this your

1 verdict?

2 THE JURY (in unison): Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Thank you.

4 THE COURT: All right. So Ms. Wint is going to
5 take the verdict form.

6 All right. I have reviewed the verdict form. It is
7 signed, it is dated, and the printed name of the foreperson is
8 also on the verdict form. It is consistent with what was just
9 indicated on the record, and the Court will accept that
10 verdict. The verdict form will be stamped and placed in the
11 court file.

12 Counsel, would either of you—Would you like the jury
13 polled?

14 MR. CHAMPION: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Yes. Okay.

16 So we're going to poll the jury, which means we're
17 going to ask each of you individually if the verdict that was
18 just outlined on the record is your personal verdict. So I'm
19 going to turn it over to Ms. Johnson again.

20 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number one, is this your
21 verdict?

22 JUROR HILL: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number two, is this your
24 verdict?

25 JUROR ROBERT NELSON: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number three, is this
2 your verdict?

3 JUROR ZOELLER: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number four, is this your
5 verdict?

6 JUROR TAGGETT: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number five, is this your
8 verdict?

9 JUROR YONKMAN: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number six, is this your
11 verdict?

12 JUROR CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number seven,
14 Mr. Foreperson, is this your verdict?

15 JUROR VANHEUKELOM: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number nine, is this your
17 verdict?

18 JUROR JASENSKY: Yes, ma'am.

19 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number 11, is this your
20 verdict?

21 JUROR REIBELING: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number 13, is this your
23 verdict?

24 JUROR BONSAK: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Juror in seat number 14, is this your

1 verdict?

2 JUROR STEPHANIE NELSON: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: And juror who is number 16 but seated
4 as number 15, is this your verdict?

5 JUROR PROTZ: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm
8 going to excuse you now. I just want to tell you we do
9 appreciate your time over the last couple weeks. This has
10 been a longer trial, and we certainly know how hard it is on
11 all of you, too. It's certainly an important responsibility
12 that we all have, as you know.

13 You can talk about the case now. I will indicate
14 that.

15 We have some things to do here in the court, so the
16 doors will not be opened for a few minutes. We'll give you
17 time to make a decision as to whether or not you want to stay
18 and speak with the attorneys or if you want to leave; and you
19 certainly are under no obligation to leave [sic], but
20 sometimes the attorneys have questions for you and sometimes
21 jurors have questions for the attorneys.

22 So, if you're interested in staying and talking to
23 either of the attorneys, then I would ask you to return
24 upstairs to the room that you deliberated in. It'll probably
25 take us five, ten minutes to get up there. So, if no one's

1 there, that's perfectly fine.

2 If we don't see you again, again, you can talk about
3 the case now with anyone, among yourselves, or whatnot.

4 So, again, thank you for your time.

5 Ms. Wint will take your badges on the way out, and
6 you are excused.

7 All rise.

8 (At 1:57 p.m., jury excused)

9 You may be seated.

10 Okay. Given the verdict, Counsel, the sentence date
11 will be September 30th at 2:00 o'clock.

12 I would remind both of you that you do need to make
13 sure when--when you receive the exhibits that you sign the
14 exhibit log. And I believe both of you have exhibits that
15 you'll need to sign for.

16 Is there anything else, then, that we need to
17 address at this time?

18 MR. CUSICK: Your Honor, there is a subsequent case
19 that was held over the defendant is charged with. It's
20 dogfighting. Can we set the pretrial date on September 30th?

21 THE COURT: I believe we have already had a
22 pretrial, and I believe--

23 MR. CUSICK: That may have been the case with the
24 Kalamazoo prosecutor's office, your Honor, but--

25 THE COURT: Let me see. It was set--It's been

1 tracking with this case for a jury trial.

2 MR. CUSICK: Okay.

3 THE COURT: Let me just double-check here and see
4 if—I believe we've had the settlement conference on May 10 and
5 the trial has simply been tracking, then, along with this.
6 We've moved them along together.

7 We can certainly address the case, if necessary, on
8 the same Monday since that way you don't have to come back.

9 MR. CUSICK: Thank you, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: And we won't set it for another trial
11 until the September 30 date.

12 Okay. Anything else that we need to address—

13 MR. CUSICK: No, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: —at this time?

15 MR. CUSICK: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Champion?

17 MR. CHAMPION: No, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: No. Okay.

19 September 30 at 2:00 o'clock is the sentence date.

20 And, with that—

21 Again, I appreciate all of your patience. I know
22 these are tough issues to address for family members and
23 friends.

24 So court's in recess.

25 (At 2:00 p.m. proceedings concluded)

* * * * *

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)